

# Oscar nominees produce dry box office

Analysis by Ward W. Triplett III

It wasn't the best of times, it wasn't the worst of times. But 1983's cinema wasn't a bumper crop by any stretch of the imagination. Nay, it was, actually, a pretty dry year.

There isn't a social drama among the year's five Oscar nominees, nor that warm, uplifting comedy that always seems to find a spot in the final five. Instead, you find a somewhat shallow epic that flopped at the box office, a disappointing salute to the '60s that did well but simply isn't the best movie and a family story that tries too hard to be sentimental. In a way, it's a shame that somebody has to win, but here's some guesses as to who the movie establishment will choose to honor Monday night and why.

**Best movie — *Terms of Endearment***

*Terms* might very well be the best movie of this season, merely because it strikes at a broad range of emotion; it's sad but supposedly uplifting story has a broad range of appeal. Actually, the winner should be *Tender Mercies*. Looking at what the movie is meant to do, show the story of a working class man happy with his life and adjusting to the rewards it can give, *Mercies* should take it. But, seeing how it went through Lincoln on a rail, it would be tough for the academy to hand it its biggest prize, particularly with the made-for-the-industry *Terms* on hand.

*The Right Stuff*, might have offered a serious challenge with a shorter screening. *The Dresser* is a little too pessimistic. I personally found *The Big Chill* a good idea, but the story itself a little too simple. I anticipate the Academy will, too. That would make me look awfully good, but there's this outside chance that the 60s memories could play on some voters' minds. Still, give it to *Terms*, and remember they had to make up for not choosing *On Golden Pond* a few years back.

**Best Actor — Robert Duvall**

I have to confess to the Bill Murray excuse for picking Robert Duvall. I haven't seen *Educating Rita* or *Reuben Reuben*. The former nominated Michael Caine, the latter Tom Conti. I've read that Conti is a sentimental favorite as an underdog, but the film failed its first time around, and that usually hurts. I further confess that I missed *Tender Mercies* until HBO's showing this month; I like the sincerity of Duvall's performance. Tom Courtenay and Albert Finney have a little teeny bit on David Landis and

Rex McGraw, their UNL stage counterparts from the Directors Association's "Dresser" production last fall. But while I would like to see Courtenay win after a long career of setbacks and second-hand roles, Duvall's role hit home. It was a gritty, American character, and that just might do it.

**Best Actress — Shirley MacLaine**

Scratch Julie Walters under the Bill Murray rule, although she's probably got a good shot. Scratch Meryl Streep under the repeating champion rule, and scratch Jane Alexander because no one saw *Testament*. That leaves Debra Winger and Shirley MacLaine, and the only real surprise will be seeing if Winger will try to orchestrate some hugs for the cameras despite the alleged differences between the two. Besides, MacLaine has a brand new book out about her life and every journalist and author knows the best parts happen after you go to print. I wish I could determine a reason why MacLaine should win, but it just kind of makes sense.

**Best Supporting Actor — Jack Nicholson**

Once again, the Bill Murray rule. I pick Nicholson because he's the only real name here. John Lithgow, Charles Durning, Rip Torn and Sam Shepard have all had strong roles, even some nominations in the past, but none are near the star attraction Nicholson is. Plus, none had the kind of sit-up-and-take-notice role they would need to overcome Nicholson's stardom.

**Best Supporting Actress — Linda Hunt**

Alfred Woodard will have to be one of the happiest people on the floor of the theater Monday night. A virtual unknown, here she is among the top 20

recognized actors and actresses of the year. I would sure like to see just what she looks like. I would even be more interested in seeing what *Cross Creek* looks like. I think it got as close as Denver.

I can't go with Amy Irving on this because *Yentl* was so dominated by Streisand and her music. I really can't remember anything too special Irving brought to the film. Same thing with Glenn Close — there were too many people and too many stories in *The Big Chill* to single out just the one role.

I can't go with Cher, either, though she must be the front runner since her film was among the strongest. If Cher had a last name like most stars, then she would probably be a shoe-in. Hunt had the toughest role of them all in the woefully forgotten *The Year of Living Dangerously*. If the academy were to start a trend of rewarding real work instead of mass appeal, Hunt would benefit this year.

**Best Original Song — "Flashdance, What A Feeling"**

It's somewhat disturbing to look down the list of nominees and not see anything other than "Flashdance" or "She's a Maniac" to pick. "Over You" from *Tender Mercies* is a gentle country ballad, which pales behind Barbara Streisand's two songs from *Yentl*. Which two songs from *Yentl* were chosen from among all that is the real question. But this is the year of the dance, no doubt about it.

**Best Director — Ingmar Bergman**

Call it sentiment, but Bergman's last film should net him this award, which annually goes to the guy who stepped out of the way and let the actors work. James Brooks is the second choice in case the popularity of the two films (*Fanny and Alexander* vs. *Terms*) comes into play.

## The Most Sophisticated Training Ground For Nuclear Engineering Isn't On The Ground.



It's on a Navy ship. The Navy has more than 1,900 reactor-years of nuclear power experience — more than anyone else in America. The Navy has the most sophisticated nuclear equipment in the world. And the Navy operates over half of the nuclear reactors in America.

With a nuclear program like that, you know the Navy also offers the most comprehensive and sophisticated nuclear training. Every officer in the Nuclear Navy completes a full year of graduate level technical training. Outside the Navy, this kind of program would cost you thousands. In the Navy, you're paid while you learn.

Then, as a nuclear-trained officer, you supervise highly trained personnel in the operation of the most advanced nuclear propulsion plants ever developed. You get a level of technical and management experience unequalled anywhere else.

You get important responsibilities and you

get them fast. Because in the Navy, as your knowledge grows, so do your responsibilities.

Today's Nuclear Navy is one of the most challenging and rewarding career choices a man can make. And that choice can pay off while you're still in school. Qualified juniors and seniors earn approximately \$1,000 per month while they finish school.

As a nuclear-trained officer, after 4 years with regular promotions and pay increases, you can be earning as much as \$40,500. That's on top of a full benefits package that includes medical and dental care, and 30 days' vacation earned each year.

As a nuclear-trained officer, you also earn a place among this nation's most qualified and respected professionals. So,

if you're majoring in math, engineering or the physical sciences, send in the coupon. Find out more about the most sophisticated training ground for nuclear engineering. Today's Nuclear Navy.

NAVY OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION CENTER W 345  
 P.O. Box 5000, Clifton, NJ 07015

Please send me more information about becoming an officer in the Nuclear Navy. (ON)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*College/University \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age \_\_\_\_\_ #Year in College \_\_\_\_\_ #GPA \_\_\_\_\_  
 #Major/Minor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ (Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call \_\_\_\_\_

This is for general recruitment information. You do not have to furnish any of the information requested. Of course, the more we know, the more we can help to determine the kinds of Navy positions for which you qualify.

## Navy Officers Get Responsibility Fast.

**We'd like your comments!**  
 Address all cards and letters regarding Arts & Entertainment to:  
 A & E Editor, Room 34, Nebr Union



*Lincoln's Largest Beer Selection Domestic or Imported.*

**Bring This Ad And Get warm CASE OF MILLER only \$8.10 or \$4.05 per 12 pack**

Belmont Plaza  
11th & Cornhusker